Black marketing of railway tickets

1294. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many touts have been arrested by Railway Police from stations during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that railway employees are in nexus with these touts; and

(c) if so, the details of vigilance cases pending against railway employees who are involved in black-marketing of railway tickets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) 4,990 touts have been arrested under section 143 of the Railways Act, 1989 during the last three years i.e. 2003, 2004 and 2005.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. 28 Railway employees were arrested under section 143 of the Railways Act, 1989 for their involvement with the touts. All these Railway employees have been taken up and cases have been registered against them. 13 cases are pending in the Court of Law. 14 have been dealt with under Disciplinary and Appeals Rules (DAR) and one case is pending under investigation.

Mumbai Urban Transport Project

1295. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the physical progress of Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) till date;

(b) what steps Government have taken to avoid cost and time overrun on this project;

(c) whether there has been any slippages, so far, on this project; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The overall physical progress of the Rail component of Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) is 31.5% till January 2006.

(b) MUTP is a World Bank funded project and quarterly progress reports are being sent to the World Bank by Ministry of Railways and Govt. of Maharashtra. In addition, regular coordination meetings are being held amongst the various implementing agencies, *viz.*, Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation (MRVC), Central Railway, Western Railway and Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authroity.

(c) The works included in the Rail Component of MUTP Phase I are progressing as programmed and will be completed by June 2008. However, there has been some delay in finalisation of the rolling stock procurement contract. As such the supply of Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) rakes and consequent DC to AC conversion is likely to get delayed by a year, i.e. by June 2009.

(d) The bids received for fully imported new technology EMU rakes were much higher than the budget cost and the tender had to be discharged. Now only electrical equipment is being procured through World Bank funds and the rakes will be manufactured indigenously at Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai.

Restrictions on loading of ore wagons

1296. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have imposed certain restrictions on loading of ore wagons for exports;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these restrictions have hit both the Paradip and Haldia ports;

(c) whether these restrictions are of temporary nature and have since been lifted; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.